(d) The estimation of minerable coal reserves out of total reserves in proved category is done on an empirical basis and 80 per cent of the proved coal reserves is taken as minerable reserve. Out of the estimated minerable reserve about 80 per cent is considred to be extractable in the blocks which are amendable to opencast mining. In the case of blocks which have to be mined by underground methods, about 50 per cent of the reserve is considered to be extractable after allowing for locked up reserves due to surface features, such as railway lines, rivers etc. and loss of coal due to mining constraints and safety requirements.

(b) The current average overburden (OB) to coal ratio in various opencast mines of Coal India Ltd. is about two cubic metres of OB to a tonne of coal.

(c) The depth of underground mines currently working widely varies depending on the factors like depth, thickness and gradient of coal Seams etc. Depending on the geo-mining factors of individual mines| blocks, the depth of various underground mines ranges between about 150 to 650 metres.

Pilferage of coal from loaded wagons at Haldia Port

3555. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale of pilferage of coal from loaded wagons moving to and from Haldia have been taking place causing hardships to the electricity boards served by the Haldia Port-

(b) if so, what is the average monthly pilferage of coal at the Haldia port during the last six months or so;

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry into the pilferages of coal at the Haldia Port; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof stating the measures taken by Government to check the pilferage of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) A complaint has been received from Tamil Nadu Electricity Board alleging extensive pilferage of coal from rakes moving to Haldia on transit. The complaint has been referred to Railways for taking appropriate action.

According to the report received from Ministry of Surface Transport, complaints about pilferage of thermal coal have been received both within the port area and also en-route.

Following steps have been taken by Haldia Port Trust authorities to check the pilferage:

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force has been strengthened.

(ii) Some area between the yard and the berth comes under Govt, of West Bengal. Haldia Port Trust have approached Govt. of Wert Bengal, who in turn have taken steps to check the thefts.

Joint sampling' by SEB's and collieries

3536. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of state Electricity Boards who have agreed to participate in joint sampling at loading end;